

**Pastor's Pen:**



*Happy New Year!*

It's not only a new year, but it's also a new decade. Many of us pause to reflect on the previous year, and sometimes past decade. We ponder the good things and bad things that have happened. We also make vows (resolutions) that things are going to be different. Sometimes we keep those vows and sometimes, well.... (I really was going to cut out sweets, I promise 😊)

One thing I want us all to do is make a commitment to continue to do life B.I.G. Let's keep building, investing and serving. God will reward our faithfulness to Him. I also hope that you will join me in praying for the lost. God's desire is that all come to know Him as Savior and Lord. We need to be faithful to pray for softened hearts and opportunities to share His plan for salvation.

Do you ever dream about your future? I'm sure we all dream and wonder what things will be like a year, five years, or even ten years down the road. Do you ever dream about the future of Cartecay Baptist? I do! I recently heard a preacher talking about the future, and he had a very unique take on dreaming about the future. He said, "If you can't see it before you see it, you will never see it." Here's a glimpse of what I saw a little over a year ago, right before you called me to be your pastor.

Nira and I were taking a tour of the church, and it seemingly grew with each step we took. I was taken aback by the amount of space that God had entrusted to Cartecay Baptist. As I walked the halls, I could see and hear kids. I saw room after room of men, women, boys and girls being taught in Sunday School and small groups. I saw families coming together to worship. I saw a church that carried a burden to reach a community with the Gospel. I saw unlimited potential to do something GREAT for the kingdom of God.

A little over a year has passed and God is beginning to let us see physically what we saw in our minds and hearts. I am very thankful to be a part of a church who loves on people, no matter what. I am very thankful to be a part of a church who values doing things God's way over man's way. I am very thankful to start another year with you and our family looks forward to seeing God show up and show out in 2020.

*Top 10 Advantages of Small Churches*

10. You can't get lost in a small church.
9. The bathrooms are easy to find.
8. When your toddler runs to the platform during the sermon, it's viewed as holy entertainment.
7. Christmas programs are full of bloopers, and that's what makes them so great.
6. If you have to stop and restart your special song, nobody cares.
5. It's okay to interrupt the song service with a testimony, and the more the better.
4. Your kids have multiple sets of parents and grandparents.
3. Your prayer requests are in the church bulletin.
2. If you miss church without reporting in, there is a church-wide alert to find you.
1. A close relationship with your pastor.

*Advent Candle of Hope is lit by the Elder Family, readers Zach & Emily Hall*



*Candle of Peace, Jane and Chuck Martin readers, the Marcus Law Family lights the candle.*



*Candle of Joy, Pastor Chad Hall, son Zach, daughter Emily, MIL Pennie Herring, wife Nira Hall. Readers Verdell & Paul Tatem*



Candle of Love, Readers Emily & Nira Hall, Strohl Family

Shellie McDaniel (Ted) lights the Christ Candle



Seen at CBC throughout December's services



Visit <https://www.facebook.com/CartecayBaptistChurch/> to see more photos and events CBC is involved with.



Traditionally called the 'wise men', these 'magi' were astronomers who recorded the detailed movements of the stars but were also astrologers who looked for 'portents' or 'signs' in the patterns and movements of the stars to predict the birth and death of kings. As Zoroastrians, they shared the Jewish belief in one God, and they also believed in a Messiah who would come down from heaven. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they congratulated Herod the Great (the 'King of the Jews') because they had seen a star that indicated an heir to the Jewish throne had been born. Matthew 2 tells the story of these wise men. Matt 2:12 tells us after visiting with Joseph and Mary and seeing baby Jesus they received a divine warning in a dream not to return to King Herod and divulge the child's location. After they left, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take his family to Egypt. They would not return until King Herod was dead. The wise men brought the newborn baby king gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold's value remains unchanged down through the ages. It is still highly regarded the commodity of high officials, kings, and the rich. It was given as a token to the "newborn king". Frankincense and Myrrh are both from the same plant sap and used as incense. Frankincense, if not left to dry out, can be chewed like gum. Its modern uses are as pain relievers when chewed. The Myrrh was a key ingredient used with other elements in preparing a body for burial. Its incense was used in preparation of ceremonial instruments at the altar. After being told to go to Egypt these items could have been used to buy passage into the countryside.



Before 1582, the world went by the Julian calendar, named for the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar, who implemented it in 46 BC. The Julian calendar had calculated that it takes the earth 365-¼ days to orbit the sun. However, it takes about eleven minutes less than that. Those eleven minutes accumulated each year until, by 1582, the calendar was 10 days out of harmony with the solar system. This calendar method was changed to the Gregorian Calendar in 1582 but it took almost 300 years for the entire world to fall into line. This calendar is also referred to as the Western or Christian Calendar. Before it was implemented those ten days to a year threw astronomical events out of sync. It still took some juggling to get things to work out right and we still have a short month every fourth year in February known as Leap Year. This calendar is still not used by several foreign countries.



*The top 10 most common resolutions will look familiar to you:*

1. *Exercise more*
2. *Lose weight*
3. *Get organized*
4. *Learn a new skill or hobby*
5. *Live life to the fullest*
6. *Save more money / spend less money*
7. *Quit smoking*
8. *Spend more time with family and friends*
9. *Travel more*
10. *Read more*



Ruth Rollins 1/1  
Blake Roberts 1/8  
Tori Dockery 1/17  
Charlene Robertson 1/23  
Ronny Bryant 1/27



"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Exercise daily.  
Walk with the Lord.*

*Remember you may be the only Bible someone ever reads!*



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### **Grandma's Glasses**



Two small boys were discussing eyeglasses. "Wouldn't you hate to wear glasses?" one asked.

"No," answered the other, "not if I could have the kind my grandma wears! My mother says she can always see when folks are tired or discouraged or sad. She sees when somebody is in need and she can always recognize when you have something on your mind that you need to talk over. But the best of all she can always see something GOOD in everybody!"

The little fellow continued: "I asked my grandma one day how it was that she could see that way. She said it was because of the way she's learned to look at things since she's gotten older. So I'm sure it must be those glasses of hers."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of us could see each other through Grandma's glasses?

*Located in the Cartecay River Valley, we are a rural church with traditional roots and a contemporary vision. A place where you can come as you are and leave better for it. No alterations or adjustments need be made, no masking or acting is necessary... dress casually. Simply Come! We know you'll feel right at home and be accepted. Founded in 1991, located off Roy Road at the east end of Gilmer County. Sunday School gathers at 9:30, we have a class for you. Church Service is at 11 a.m. Call for more information: 706-635-1090*